

IRISH REVOLUTIONARY HEROES.

Brief Sketches of Some of the Most Prominent Who Sacrificed Life and Fortune For American Liberty and Freedom.

What did the Irish do to gain American independence that they should celebrate the Fourth of July? Is a question asked only by those not familiar with American history and its most important and trying period, the war of the Revolution. To give in detail the part played by Irishmen and their children in war, in council, in sacrifice and self-denial to gain American independence, found and support the swaddling republic, would require more space than can be spared in a newspaper. We give brief sketches of the more prominent actively engaged in the field during the Revolution, passing over the hundreds of subordinate officers and privates in the ranks. Even these sketches may convince some that the Irish were in it from start to finish, and did something to make the Fourth of July the one great day of a great people.

General Richard Montgomery was born in Ireland in 1736. Entered the British army at the age of eighteen, serving through the French and Indian war in the Colonies and Canada with such courage that when peace was declared he held the commission of Colonel, though only twenty-three years of age. He traveled in Europe for several years, and in 1772, sympathizing with the American colonies in their protests against injustice, he resigned his commission in the British army and came to this country, finally settling on a farm in Dutchess county, N. Y. He was a member of the first Provincial Convention of New York, in 1775, after the battle of Lexington; upheld and urged the cause of the Revolution, and, because of his military experience, was foremost in organizing troops. He was one of the first eight Brigadier Generals appointed by Congress. The importance Canada as a basis of British operations was early realized, and its invasion and the capture of the principal posts were determined upon. Two forces, one under Montgomery, the other under Arnold, were organized and in their march, owing to inadequate supplies, suffered terrible hardships in the midst of the wilderness and the severe winter. Montgomery, without awaiting Arnold's arrival, attacked and captured the forts at St. John's, Chamblée and Montreal, and drove toward Quebec. The combined American force was smaller than the garrison, lacked artillery, and were greatly weakened from cold and hunger. Montgomery decided to carry the forts by assault, and before daylight on the morning of December 31, 1775, in a blinding snow storm and over ice gorges, Montgomery led his troops. The first barrier was taken after desperate fighting, and on to the second Montgomery calling out: "Men of New York, follow where your General leads." They had reached the base of the barricade, a flash and roar of artillery, and the Americans were repulsed with heavy loss. Montgomery lay dead, pierced with three wounds.

Major Gen. John Sullivan was born in Berwick, Maine, in 1740. His brother James was afterward Governor of Massachusetts. They were the sons of an Irish immigrant, John was a lawyer, but early took up the cause of the people against the Crown, and in 1773 was a Major of the militia. In 1774 he was a member of the Continental Congress, and in December of that year he and John Langdon, another Irishman, resolved to turn the tables on the British, who were sending out forces to seize arms and ammunition which the revolutionists had secreted. Sullivan and Langdon with a party of "Minute Men" surprised the small garrison at Fort William and Mary, near Portsmouth, N. H., imprisoned the garrison and carried off 100 barrels of powder, sixteen cannon, several hundred small arms and a quantity of supplies. These they concealed until they were to equip the Colonists who turned them against the British at Bunker Hill. Both were threatened with arrest and execution by the British Governor, but they attended the second Continental Congress in May. In June, 1775, Sullivan was appointed a Brigadier General, and resigning his seat, proceeded to join Washington in the siege of Boston. He was one of Washington's chief aids and advisers, being an adept in discipline and the obtaining of supplies—the two chief worries of the Continental armies, his first discovery brought to the attention of Washington and the Committee of Safety being that the army besieging Boston had only powder enough to fire three shots per man. He managed this so adroitly that the army was supplied without the deficiency becoming known. In the spring of 1776 he was ordered to Canada and assumed command of the survivors of the Montgomery expedition. Finding his position untenable he returned to Crown Point. He rejoined Washington in the defense of New York. At the Battle of Plattsburgh, on Long Island, he so maneuvered his forces as to attack the British, while Sullivan and part of his troops were captured, the remainder of the American force escaped to New York, and on the retreat from New York, across New Jersey and into Pennsylvania, he commanded one of the four divisions. In the battles of Trenton and Princeton he was actively engaged. While the army was concentrated for an attack on Germantown, Sullivan with 1,000 men raided Staten Island, where Tories had been causing much annoyance, and captured 150 of them. For this he was brought before a court of inquiry and acquitted. He commanded the right of the American forces at the Battle of Brandywine, which withstood the attack of the combined forces till nightfall, and two days after surprised and defeated the British at Germantown. He was in command of operations in Rhode Island, but owing to the failure of cooperation by the French fleet, accomplished nothing. In 1779 he commanded the force which suppressed the Six Nations of Indians and the Tories in Western New York. He then retired from the army penni-

less. Sullivan had been one of the wealthiest men in New England, but through confiscation and devastation, and British edicts canceling all debts to him, he lost all. He was elected to Congress for two sessions. He was afterward Attorney General of New Hampshire, member of her constitutional convention, President of the convention which accepted the Federal Constitution, Governor of that State for three years, and Justice of the United States Court for New Hampshire for six years, dying in 1795, aged fifty-five years.

Major Gen. Anthony Wayne, known as "Mad Anthony" because of his reckless bravery, was born in East Town, Pa., in 1745. His father, Isaac Wayne, came from Ireland. The young Wayne graduated in mathematics and engineering, was land surveyor of his native county in 1774, member of the Legislature and the Committee of Public Safety in 1775. On hearing of the battle of Lexington he resigned his seat, raised a regiment of volunteers and was commissioned a Colonel. Early in 1776 his regiment was ordered to New York and thence to Canada, participating in the Battle of Three Rivers, Wayne being wounded. He conducted the retreat to Ticonderoga, saving the army from capture, for which he was appointed Brigadier General. He was in command of the rear guard of Washington's army in the retreat from New York to Philadelphia, repulsed and held in check the British and later drove them out of New Jersey. Returning to Chester, Pa., he recruited a regiment, joining the army on the eve of the battle of Brandywine, where he saved Sullivan's division from annihilation and successfully covered the retreat from the field. Five days later, September 16, 1777, Wayne turned upon the British at Red Bank, and, being surprised by reinforcements, fought his way through and rejoined Washington. He opened the attack in the movement against Germantown in October, 1777, driving the British into the town. The movement resulted disastrously, and Wayne covered the retreat, finally effectually repulsing the pursuers at Red Bank. Then followed the hardships of the campaign at Valley Forge. To save the troops from starvation Wayne made several raids into the British lines, crossing into New Jersey, bringing in forage, cattle and horses. After months of inaction the British abandoned Philadelphia and started for New York, the American army following. On June 17, 1778, Washington called a council of war to prepare to attack the enemy, but of the seven officers present only two—Wayne and Cadwalader—favored Washington's plans. Later Washington ordered an attack, and Wayne was given command of the advance, 700 men. Coming up with the British rear of several thousand at Monmouth, N. J., June 28, he promptly attacked, was repulsed and driven back to a position behind the held till ordered to retreat by Gen. Lee. He did so reluctantly. On the arrival of Washington with the main army he reversed the order, and Wayne's force was in the thickest of the fight, which waged all day, ending in the repulse of the British, who retreated toward New York during the night. In July, 1779, he commanded the successful assault on Stony Point, and in the following year he broke up a Tory rendezvous at Bergen Neck, destroying their fort. In 1781 Wayne and his Pennsylvania troops were ordered to Virginia to assist in checking Cornwallis, and on July 5 attacked his rear guard. In the siege of Yorktown Wayne commanded the two first assaults which captured the outworks, opening the way for the final assaults on the redoubts, in which he and the Pennsylvanians were under the French Gen. Vimeuil. After the surrender of Yorktown Wayne was ordered to Georgia, where after several months' fighting he defeated the Indians at Forts, drove the British into Savannah, which they evacuated July 12, 1782. Joining Greene in South Carolina, the British were concentrated in Charleston, which they abandoned in December, Wayne occupying the city. In July, 1783, after seven years of active service, Wayne returned to civil life; he was a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature for two terms, and in 1792 was nominated by President Washington as Commander-in-Chief of the army of the United States. He conducted the campaigns which drove the Indians and their Tory allies from the lake borders and Ohio Valley, and forced England to acknowledge the territory as belonging to the United States. Gen. Wayne died while on his return from a mission to treat with Indians and receive the surrender of British forts on Lake Erie, December 15, 1796.

Brig. Gen. William Irvine was born in Enniskillen, Ireland, in 1741, graduated from the University of Dublin, served as surgeon of the British navy in the war with France, resigning in 1763 and came to America, settling at Carlisle, Pa., where he attained an extensive medical practice. He was an ardent advocate of the rights of the colonies, and in 1774, as a member of the Pennsylvania convention, supported resolutions denouncing British taxation and recommending a Continental Congress. In 1776 he raised a regiment, marched to the relief of the army in Canada, participating in the disastrous battle of Three Rivers, being captured and held a prisoner for months. On his release he was appointed Brigadier General and till the end of the war took active part in the campaigns in New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York, being wounded at Chestnut Hill. In 1782 he commanded at Fort Pitt, defending the then northwestern frontier against the British and Indians. In 1783 he was agent of public lands, then a member of Congress and the Constitutional convention of Pennsylvania. He was active in suppressing the whisky insurrection in Pennsylvania, served as superintendent of military stores at Philadelphia till his death in 1804.

Brig. Gen. Stephen Moylan was a native of Ireland, residing in Pennsylvania. He was among the first from Pennsylvania to join Washington at Boston, by whom he was appointed an aide. He did good service as commander of a regiment of dragoons; took active part in the battles at Germantown in 1777, endured the hardships of Valley Forge, was active in New York and Connecticut in 1779, was with Gen. Wayne in his daring raids in 1780, and served with Gen. Greene in the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia in 1781, concluding with the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Brig. Gen. James Moore was a native of North Carolina, but of Irish descent. His grandfather, the first Governor of North Carolina in 1705, came from Drogheda. Gen. Moore's military service was active, though brief. He organized and commanded the Colonists in a decisive battle at Cross Creek, gaining a signal victory in 1776, for which he was voted the thanks of the North Carolina Provincial Council. While en route with troops to join Washington, shortly afterward, Gen. Moore died of swamp fever.

Brig. Gen. John Patterson, of Berkshire county, Mass., was a member of the Massachusetts Provincial Council 1774-5. He organized and commanded a regiment of Minute men. The battle of Lexington was fought April 19, 1775, and on hearing of it, Patterson and his regiment hastened toward Boston, where they threw up the first fortifications investing the city, and on June 17 repulsed a British assault. After the evacuation of Boston Patterson was ordered to Canada, was defeated in the battle of the Clouds, and escaped with his force, retreating through northern New York to Pennsylvania, joining Washington in time to take part in the battles of Trenton and Princeton. He participated in the campaigns against Burgoyne in New York, and throughout the northern colonies till the close of the war.

Brig. Gen. James Reed was an officer of the Colonial militia at Fitzwilliam, N. H., when he heard of the fight at Lexington. Gathering his company they hastened to Boston, where he took command of the regiment which aided in repulsing the British on June 17. He was ordered to Canada, and during the retreat fell a victim to smallpox, from which he never recovered, being left blind and deaf, and retired from the army in 1777.

Brig. Gen. James Hogan was a member of the North Carolina Provincial Council in 1776, and served throughout the war in the conflicts with the Tories, who were fully armed and equipped in that colony. In 1779 Hogan was promoted to Brigadier General.

Brig. Gen. Francis Nash, of North Carolina, began war on the Tories before the Revolution, being commander of the Colonists in the battle of Alamance in 1771, routing 1,300 Tories. He was commissioned a Brigadier General in 1777, and joined Washington's army in Pennsylvania. He was killed at the battle of Germantown, October 27, 1777.

Brig. Gen. Edward Hand was born in King's county, Ireland, in 1744. Came to America in 1774 as Surgeon of the Royal Irish Brigade of the British army. Resigned and settled in Pennsylvania. When the Revolution began he promptly joined the first regiment, was chosen Lieutenant Colonel and later Colonel. He and his regiment were noted as taking part in every battle from the siege of Boston to the battle of Trenton, doing gallant fighting in the battle of Long Island and covering the retreat of the American army from Brooklyn across East River. In 1777 he was appointed Brigadier General. In 1778 he commanded the expedition which surprised the Indian outbreak in Central New York. Later he was appointed Adjutant General on Washington's staff, serving as such till the close of the war.

Brig. Gen. Andrew Lewis was born of Irish parents in Augusta county, Va. He and five brothers took part in the French and Indian war and were with Washington, where he commanded a company that saved Major Grant's regiment from annihilation. Lewis was captured and taken to Montreal. After the war, on his release, learning that Grant had written to the commanding officer charging Braddock's defeat to Washington and Lewis, he challenged Grant to a duel, and on his refusal to fight, denounced him as a coward and gave him a sound thrashing. He was active in Indian warfare up to the Revolution and was appointed a Brigadier General by Congress. Owing to disagreements with other officers he resigned in 1777, though urged by Washington to continue. He did efficient service afterward in negotiating treaties with Indian tribes in the Ohio Valley.

Gen. Semmel, of New Hampshire, who sacrificed his fortune to furnish supplies to the Colonial troops, was an officer of the Minute men who attacked and pursued the British sent to Concord to destroy military stores, aroused the Colonists, brought on the battle of Lexington, routed and chased the British back to Boston. He served as Adjutant General to Washington till forced by ill-health to retire, later served under Lafayette and was killed in the assault on the Yorktown redoubt in 1781.

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